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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

IPF:(1987-91) $49 700 000

(RLA/91/030) - Disaster Emergency Response Management System

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	19 February 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)
Government implementing agency:	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 955 400 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 955 400

Project background

The countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean are extremely vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, in particular, hurricanes and tropical storms which affect the region every year between June and November. Between 1960 and 1989, hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean basin killed 28,000 persons and destroyed property worth $16 billion. Given the massive disruption to the economic life of these countries and, particular, to the poorest sections of the populations, the Caribbean Heads of Government have established the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in Bridgetown, Barbados. This regional agency is charged with responsibility for co-ordination and management of regional and international responses to countries affected by natural disasters.

In order for the CDERA to be effective, however, it needs to have access to data and information about available technical skills, materials and supplies in each participating country in order to achieve an optimal match between the emergency requirements of countries affected by disasters and the resources available in the Caribbean itself and other donor countries. To this end UNDP assistance was requested under the present approval.

Description of project

At the end of the project, at the national level, the Ministries responsible for Health, Consume Affairs and Public Works in fourteen Caribbean countries will have in place fully functional electronic information management systems for management of human and material resources an inventorying of stocks and supplies. In addition, throughout the region, 378 administrative and technical personnel will have had their skills upgraded and

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

thus be fully competent and capable in all aspects of management and maintenance of these systems. Still at the national level, the disaster focal points in these countries will have been enabled to access these systems, and in the event of a natural disaster, will be able to immediately provide decision-makers with data on the availability and location of technical personnel, materials and supplies to enable both national and regional responses to emergency requirements for food, shelter and medical services. At the regional level, the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency will be enabled, by the end of the project to collect and collate this data and information thus providing an accurate basis for decisions to be taken on the deployment of technical resources, the transportation and shipment of materials and supplies to populations affected by a disaster.

The project strategy will provide for interventions at two levels. Insofar as the Governments' priority for enhancement of national and regional disaster management capacities is concerned, the project directly will address this concern. However, at a higher level, the project interventions will also address fundamental issues of public sector institutional reform and will contribute to a complete change in the manner in which traditional sector ministries carry out their responsibilities and manage and account for the public assets which are assigned to them. In this respect the project will contribute directly to achievement of higher levels of operating standards and improvement in the quantity and quality of services provided by the designated ministries. The experiences gained during project implementation in the designated ministries, and the revised systems and procedures which will emerge, will therefore inform and contribute to, the ongoing national efforts to undertake activities which contribute to reform the public sector and the provision of cost-effective and efficient delivery of better quality services to the public.

Inputs

UNDP will provide administrative support; five UNV specialists, consultants and national experts in electronic data processing and information management, geographic information systems, disaster management and public service administrative reform; four subcontracts in disaster management, public safety reform, maps reproduction, and GIS software; country maps produced as inputs for the computerised system, and tripartite reviews with the project advisory board; and non-expendable equipment.

The Governments will provide technical and administrative personnel within CDERA and, at the country level, office facilities and data processing capacity to supplement the equipment that will be provided through the UNDP contribution.

Financial data

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Personnel	423 800
Subcontract	276 600
Equipment	225 000
Miscellaneous	30 000
Total	955 400

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